one or more screws including a longitudinal axis oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the a leg of the tensioned blade extending across the aperture, for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the tensioned blade along a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the one or more screws.

9. (Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 8 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each comprise a height substantially equal to the width of the tensioned blade for transferring a substantially equal force across the width of the tensioned blade.

10. (Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 8 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each further comprise a bearing face lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the leg of the tensioned blade extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head for imparting a substantially equally tensive force across the width of the cutting member.

REMARKS

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same. If the Examiner is of a differing opinion he/she is hereby requested to conduct a telephonic interview with the undersigned attorney.

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April 18, 2002
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SERIAL NO.: 09/826,452 GROUP ART UNIT: **3724**
FILED: 04/04/01 EXAMINER: **C. D xter**

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 21, 2002

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 - 10 have been amended as follows (deletions are enclosed in [] and additions are underlines):

1. (Third Amendment) A cutting head assembly comprising:

a cutting head including [a first set of returns and a second set of returns, the first set of returns adjustably opposing the second set of returns] a first head member including a first set of returns, the first head member adjustably connected to a second head member including a second set of returns;

a cutting member [formed of a strip of material including a first end, a second end and a width, the cutting member including a serpentine configuration, the cutting member positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of returns the cutting member extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head, the first end and the second end of the cutting member secured to the cutting head] connected to the cutting head, the cutting member formed of a strip of material including a first end, a second end, a length and a width, a first end of the cutting member secured to the cutting head, the length of the cutting member positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of returns in a serpentine configuration, a leg of the cutting member extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head and the second end of the cutting member secured to the cutting head; and

a cutting member tensioning device [including a screw adjustably attaching the first set of returns and the second set of returns for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting

member] disposed between and adjustably engaging the first head member and second head member for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the cutting member.

2. (Twice Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cutting member tensioning device further comprises [a screw adjustably attaching the first set of returns and the second set of returns for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting member along a plane substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the screw] one or more cutting member tensioning screws disposed between and threadedly engaging the first head member and second head member for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting member.

4. (Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each further comprise a bearing face lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the [plurality of] leg of the cutting member extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head [segments for imparting a substantially equally tensive force across the width of the cutting member].

6. (Amended) The cutting assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cutting member tensioning device further comprises a screw including a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis of the screw oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the [plurality of] leg of the cutting member extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head [segments], [and] the screw adjustably attaching the first set of returns and the second set of returns for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting member along a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the screw.

7. (Twice Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cutting member tensioning device further comprises a pair of screws, each of the pair of screws including a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis of each of the pair of screws oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the [plurality of] leg [segments] of the cutting member extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head, and each of the pair of screws adjustably attaching the first set of returns and the second set of returns for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting member along a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the pair of screws.

8. (Third Amendment) A cutting head assembly comprising:

a cutting head including a first head member[, a second head member connected to the first head member, a first set of returns connected to the first head member adjustably opposing a second set of returns connected to the second head member] including a first set of returns, the first head member opposingly and adjustably connected to a second head member including a second set of returns;

a [cutting member formed of a strip of material including a first end, a second end, a longitudinal axis and a width, the cutting member including a serpentine configuration, the cutting member positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of returns, a leg of the cutting member extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head, the first end and the second end of the cutting member secured to the cutting head; and] tensioned blade formed of a strip of material including a first end, a second end, a length, a longitudinal axis and a width, the tensioned blade positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of returns in a serpentine configuration, a leg of the tensioned blade extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head, the first end of the tensioned blade

secured to the cutting head by a first end securing member and the second end of the tensioned blade secured to the cutting head at a second end securing member;

the first set of returns each including a face that is oriented substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tensioned blade for exerting a substantially equal tensive force across a full width of the tensioned blade, substantially reducing stress risers in the tensioned blade;

the second set of returns each including a face that is oriented substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tensioned blade for exerting a tensive force across a full width of the tensioned blade, substantially reducing stress risers in the tensioned blade; and

a [cutting member tensioning device including a pair of screws, each of the pair of screws including a longitudinal axis oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the leg of the tensionable cutting member extending across the aperture and each of the pair of screws adjustably attaching the first head member and the second head member for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting member along a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the pair of screws] tensioning device including one or more screws disposed between and adjustably engaging the first head member and second head member, each of the one or more screws including a longitudinal axis oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the a leg of the tensioned blade extending across the aperture, for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the tensioned blade along a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the one or more screws.

9. (Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 8 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each comprise a height substantially equal to [a] the width of [cutting member] the tensioned blade for transferring a substantially equal force across the width of the [cutting member] the tensioned blade.

10. (Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 8 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each further comprise a bearing face lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the [plurality of] leg [segments] <u>of the tensioned blade extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head</u> for imparting a substantially equally tensive force across the width of the cutting member.